



REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The examiner has requested further restriction of the above identified application between a number of species, asserting that each species is patentably distinct from the other, namely between the species of figure 8, species of figure 17 and species of figure 18.

The applicant understands that the examiner is making a distinction between, on the one hand, a core spacer comprising an **"inter-registrable tongue/mortise interlock element"** as exemplified by figure 8 (and as further exemplified by figures 15a and 16a) and, on the other hand, a core spacer comprising **"snap lock connector elements"** as exemplified in figure 17 and in figure 18.

Keeping in mind the applicant's previous election of the hexagonal spacer configuration, the applicant hereby elects (without prejudice to the right to file any divisional application) the species as exemplified by figure 8 (and as further exemplified by figures 15a and 16a); claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 18 to 20, 23, 27 to 29, 31 and 32 are readable thereon.

As mentioned above, the applicant has by separate letter petitioned for a two (2) month extension of time within which to respond to the outstanding Office Letter, namely up to and including December 20, 2006.

If any further extension of time is necessary, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby petitioned for such an extension and may charge any necessary fees to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$960.00 to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980** in payment of the additional twelve (12) claims and for the fourth independent claim.

If any further fee, **whatsoever**, with respect to the present application is due, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is in any event hereby authorized to charge such further amount to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

In light of the foregoing amendments and comments, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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